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State is due to open and flagrant frauds. The election of at least three Democratic congressmen was secured by the same means. When Congress meets it will be asked to take cognizance of the frauds, and as soon as the certificates of election are issued the Republican candidates will give notice of contests. "The Republicans of Tennessee," says the Sun correspondent, "are determined that the people of the United States shall know what elections mean in parts of this State." They know already that elections in the South are for the most part a sham.

ILLITERACY AND BRYANISM.

It must be a very bold and as blind advocate of free silver, or what is left of that maddening cause, that would try to prove that in the recent election a larger percentage of the illiterate vote was cast for McKinley than for Bryan. This is what the local Bryan organ does. The statistics of illiteracy in the last census report show upon their face, that the States which voted for Bryan have a much larger percentage of illiterates than those which voted for McKinley. They are as follows:—

California	1.7	New Jersey	4.5
Connecticut	1.3	North Dakota	6.0
Delaware	1.2	Ohio	3.2
Florida	2.5	Oregon	4.1
Georgia	2.8	Washington	4.5
Idaho	1.1	Utah	5.6
Kansas	4.0	Virginia	3.2
Massachusetts	0.8	Wisconsin	2.1
Michigan	1.5	Wyoming	3.4
Minnesota	1.2	Average	2.90
New Hampshire	0.3	Average	2.90

—For Bryan.

Alabama	14.4	North Carolina	15.7
Arkansas	25.6	South Carolina	35.0
Colorado	2.5	Tennessee	26.6
Florida	2.5	Tennessee	26.6
Georgia	2.8	Tennessee	26.6
Idaho	1.1	Utah	5.6
Kansas	4.0	Virginia	3.2
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—For McKinley.

This shows that the average of illiterates in the twenty-two States that voted for Bryan was 20.2 per cent. of the whole population, as against 7.90 in the twenty-three States that voted for McKinley. To rebut the inference from these figures the local organ of the lost cause says that "most of the ignorant and illiterate classes of those States (the Bryan States) voted the Republican ticket. They were negroes, and to a man, almost, Republicans." This is a cunning attempt to cover up the illiteracy that prevails among the white population of the Bryan States with that of the colored people. The statistics show that, leaving the negroes out of the question, the percentage of illiterate whites in the Bryan States is far greater than in the McKinley States. The table printed above shows the percentage of illiterates over the age of ten years, including negroes as well as whites, and foreign as well as native-born population. Much the largest part of the illiteracy in all the Northern States is among the foreign-born population, and that class, illiterate foreigners, voted almost solidly for Bryan. The following table, taken from the census of 1890, excludes negroes and foreigners and shows the percentage of illiterates, ten years old or over, among the native-born white population of the States named:—

California	1.7	New Jersey	4.5
Connecticut	1.3	North Dakota	6.0
Delaware	1.2	Ohio	3.2
Florida	2.5	Oregon	4.1
Georgia	2.8	Washington	4.5
Idaho	1.1	Utah	5.6
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which the Populists, as such, are recognized. Nevertheless it may be assumed that the silver leaders will select congressional districts which have given small Republican pluralities this year for their battlefields in the hope of controlling the next House. It is already given out that in this State the Populistic candidates who were defeated by small pluralities have already announced themselves as candidates for 1898. They will begin their neighborhood organization and attempt to prejudice voters by the circulation of free-silver literature, repeating the efforts which filled several counties in this State with financial heresies during 1895 and early in 1896.

SOME THINGS TO BE IN FAVOR OF THE SILVERITES.

Action and reaction are as nearly equal in political matters as in mechanics. There will be less interest in public affairs, if the expectations of many do not realize. The disappointed may be led to seek the impossible which they expect in silverism. Furthermore, two years after a presidential election the administration is published in the elections. The President has ceased to be the object of enthusiastic regard by hundreds who were stimulated to exertion during the campaign through the expectation of recognition. Representatives will be less popular because they have not been able to give every man who has thought that he deserved it a postoffice. These and like weaknesses on the side of sound money will be turned to advantage by those men who expect to increase their wealth by forcing the country to a silver basis.

In view of such probable conditions, the advocates of sound money should make provision for the circulation of sound money literature during the next two years. In every locality the friends of sound money should have enough of an organization to make a fight if the adversary should be sowing the seeds of silver heresy. It seems that this matter is of sufficient importance to be considered by the conference of the delegates of boards of trade which will meet here next Wednesday.

CUBAN INDEPENDENCE.

If the Cuban insurgents do not achieve their independence within the next three months the incoming administration will be confronted at once with the question of recognizing them. The duty may not be any more imperative than it is now and has been for some time past, but the people will expect some change of policy, and public opinion is likely to become very outspoken in favor of recognition. By that time the war will have been in progress two years, with the insurgents gaining ground all the time, and by that time, also, the inability of the Spanish government to hold the island will probably be so clearly demonstrated as to justify some very decided action by the United States.

There are two points of view from which the question of recognition may be considered, viz., the sentimental and the commercial. It is a question at what point in the progress of such a war the United States should openly declare its sympathy with those who are struggling for independence, but we certainly owe it to the cause of human freedom and the principles of republicanism to do so as soon as circumstances enable us to do so.

In the present case the cause of humanity is one with the cause of liberty